

Happy New Year! As we head into 2015, there's a lot to report and to celebrate!!

At Camp Harkness, 2014 was a year of renovations. Hopefully, you've had a chance to visit and see all that's been accomplished.

- The dining hall was painted; new floors, ceilings, lighting, windows, doors, and a sound system were installed. Both rest rooms were completely overhauled.
- The brown cabins had twelve foot additions built onto the back. Each of these additions houses two new fully accessible bathrooms. A new fire pit was also built.
- Bath house at the beach - new dividers were installed in the bathroom and shower stalls, and the floors were sand blasted. Additionally, lighting, and ventilation were replaced.
- Cottage 2 was painted and new floors were installed.
- Dorcus Lodge - a new heating and cooling system is being installed.
- The Infirmary - two new bathrooms and new floors are being installed.
- Two solar generators were purchased to use at the tent sites to power medical equipment.

With all of these upgrades happening, the Camp Harkness Advisory Committee (CHAC) decided that it would be a wise idea to have a Master Plan for improvements developed. Architects from The Silver Petrucci Architecture firm made several visits to camp over the past few months to collect ideas and dream lists, and identify needs from all factions of the camp. In September, they presented a Master Plan for the future of Camp Harkness to the CHAC and other interested parties. The CHAC, along with DDS staff would like to present the plan to all interested individuals. We welcome your feedback and ideas.

Presentations on the Camp Harkness Master Plan will be held on the following dates in the Dining Hall at camp. (301 Great Neck Road, Waterford)

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: 1-2:30PM

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: 6-7:30PM

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>: 12:00 -1:30PM, following Spring Clean-up which runs 9AM -12 PM.

Please RSVP and let us know which session you will be attending – 860-443-7818

**The Master Plan will be posted after January 15th on the DDS website ([www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds)) for your review.**

## RESERVATION PROCEDURE 2015

We will be taking reservations for 2015 throughout January. All reservation requests will be processed during the last week of January. If requests overlap, there will be a lottery for those dates. You can call the office at **860-443-7818** any time after January 1<sup>st</sup> and leave a message. Your message should include - the dates you are requesting, the location, and your phone number. You can make one reservation for one tent site/cabin of up to a week per pass holder. **You must have a current pass to make a reservation.** In your confirmation packet, you will receive a copy of the 2015 rules to sign and return. During the first week of February we will contact you regarding your confirmation and/or your options. After April 1<sup>st</sup>, you can call and make a second reservation request.

Important dates to keep in mind when submitting your request:

***Heated Cabins (Browns, Cottage 1&2) are available:***

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 AND Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>- Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

***Unheated Cabins (yellows, blues, greens, and Cottage 3) are available:***

May 23<sup>rd</sup>- June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 AND Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> – Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

***Tent sites are available:***

June 12, 2015 – September 7, 2015

Please remember that you can always call the week before to see if we have had cancellations.

In closing, we want everyone to keep in mind that Camp Harkness was always meant to be a safe and peaceful retreat for people with disabilities. With the increase in Camp Harkness' popularity, has come an increase in the number of pass holders. Everyone needs to cooperate (adhere to the Camp rules, display your parking pass and respect the camp staff) to maximize the use of the park for all pass holders. Pass holders are responsible to make sure that their guests are aware of the rules and adhere to them. There have been several incidents over the years that demonstrate that not everyone understands the purpose of the park. Our utmost concern has to be the health and safety of the campers, pass holders and guests...

Hope to see in 2015!

The Camp Harkness Staff